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Atty. No. 058856-0110

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki FUMIOKA

Title: SOCKET FOR DIALYZER

3/18/02 A

LA
6-18-02

Appl. No.: Unassigned

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Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the application:

In the Claims:

Please delete claims 7, 8, and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please substitute for original claims 2-6, and 9 the following rewritten version of the same claims, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

2. (Amended) ~~The socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 1, wherein a front end portion of the holder constitutes a protrusion that externally protrudes from a front end surface of the outer sleeve, and when cleaning the socket, the locking ball can be released by pressing said protrusion of the holder to retract the holder, thereby canceling a constraint state of the locking ball.~~

3. (Amended) ~~The socket for a dialyzer according to Claim 2, wherein the protrusion on the front end portion of the holder and front end surface of the outer sleeve are configured to be visually discriminable.~~